

Broadband USA Applications Database

Applicant Name: Albany Housing Authority

Project Title: Technology, Help and Education

Project Type: Public Computer Center

Executive Summary

7. Executive Summary

a) Statement of problem

The unemployment rate in the City of Albany was 8.7% as of July 2009. The population which this grant will serve is extremely vulnerable and the unemployment rate among this population is significantly higher. The purpose of this project is 1) to create jobs and 2) to provide supportive employment services to an extremely vulnerable population.

b) Overall approach to addressing the problem

The supportive services to be added will include: a full time instructor, job coach, employment support counselor, a housing and supportive services counselor and a site coordinator.

The training and educational programs offered at THE Center are all encompassing. They are meant to provide clients with the most update to date training available along with the both the hard and soft skills necessary to be successful in the work world.

This program will include a full time instructor who will focus on both the soft skills and hard skills necessary for the job market. The program will include an eight week program. The first two weeks are classroom based. At this time the focus is on the soft skills necessary for the world of work. The remaining six weeks are spent at a job site at a work experience program. These sites have already been secured and partnership agreements signed. The job site will include an onsite job coach who will be readily available at all times for program participants. The program was created with the statistics from the NYS Department of Labor in mind. It was also created with the idea of supporting the convention center that is currently being developed in the City of Albany. It is widely believed that service industry and hospitality has no use for technology. However, nothing could be further from the truth. All hotels and leisure spots in Albany currently offer broadband. In addition, the technology is necessary for workers to log in and out of work each day. This includes cleaners of hotel room, beverage managers who keep track of usage, front desk clerks who check in guests and maintenance and laundry attendants

who track water and linen usage. So, the impact of broadband and technology usage is much more ubiquitous than first imagined.

Once the students complete the program and pass all certifications they are given a certificate that indicates their technology literacy skills. This certification was created through a partnership with learning.com and the Tech Yes project.

As the economy has faltered and the unemployment rates have increased, the need for supportive services has increased dramatically. The strain on existing services is being felt by every service provider in the area. Both the employment support counselor and housing and supportive services counselors provide the services clients need to obtain and retain employment. What has become apparent is that often times a client can get a job but has difficulty maintaining employment. For example, the stress of losing a job and the stress on a family is often insurmountable. The Employment Support Counselor provides the support a family needs. It can involve counseling, referrals to outside agencies or interventions. The housing and supportive services counselor serves as the main contact for support services. Often times a family may be homeless as a result of a job loss. The transition to a shelter, then to look and obtain work, find new day care and then new living arrangements is overwhelming for even the strongest families. The supportive services counselor coordinates all of the services and serves as an advocate for the family and their needs.

All of these trainings, and services involve the use of technology and the use of broadband services within the public community center and provide the much needed support and training for those in need.

c. Areas to be served.

Public Computer

Center	Address	City State	Zip
T.H.E. Center			
(Technology, Help and Education	200 Green St	Albany New York	12202
Training Lab	220 Green St	Albany New York	12202
Ida Yarborough Lab	Ida Yarborough Homes	North Pearl St Albany New York	12207

The traffic and attendance for the two previous years has been well documented. From January 2007-February 2009 5,072 people signed in to use the Employment Center. This included drop in time, use of job services, training programs, employment counselors and therapists

d. Qualifications

Albany Housing Authority has many years of experience creating and managing complex projects using federal funds. This has included massive construction projects using Hope VI funds as well as smaller grant projects. All staff is ready to implement the programs immediately upon the awarding of grant funds.

The following chart outlines the smaller grant funds that have been awarded and successfully administered.

Grant Program and Grantor Agency	Major Goal	Grant Amount
2006 Neighborhood Network-HUD	Provide Job Readiness	\$250,000
2005 Hope VI NN-HUD	Vocational Management and Job Readiness	\$250,000
2005 ROSS RSDM-HUD	Job Readiness	\$300,000
2003 ROSS Family-HUD	Job Readiness and Counseling	\$250,000
2003 Neighborhood Network	Job Readiness and Counseling	\$500,000
2002 Neighborhood Network	Job Readiness and Basic Computer Skills	\$300,000

e. Jobs to be saved or created

The new jobs that will be created are five. In addition, it is expected that 100 people will be placed into permanent employment. This is consistent with the results achieved in the previous two years.

f. Overall cost of the project.

The overall cost of the project is \$265,000 annually in federal BTOP funds.